

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01091 150432Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----027909 160446Z /13  
R 141333Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4209  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 1 0 9 1

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, CVIS, CGEN, CSCE, SHUM, UR  
SUBJ: LENINGRAD JEWISH REFUSENIK SCENE

REF: A. LENINGRAD 375, B. LENINGRAD 303

1. SUMMARY. THE LENINGRAD JEWISH REFUSENIK SCENE HAS  
WITNESSED A LARGE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF THE REFUSENIK  
COMMUNITY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST REPORTS, EIGHTEEN FIRST TIME  
APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO  
EMIGRATE SINCE MID JANUARY.

--NEW REFUSENIKS WITH FAMILIES ARE: AL'BERT SVERDLOV,  
NAUM TSELESIN, IL'YA LEVIN, VADIM ILIVITSKIY, YURIY  
SHPEYZMAN, YURIY VLADIMIRSKIY, MIKHAIL FURMAN, LEONID SHUR,  
YAKOV LIVSHITS, ALEKSANDR SAGAL, GRIGORIY  
KHEYFETS.

--NEW REFUSENIKS WITHOUT FAMILIES ARE: GRIGORIY GIMPEL'SON,  
STANISLAV MAZHEBOVSKIY, AND LEV ABOL'YZHKOV.

--NEW REFUSENIKS FOR WHOM FAMILY INFORMATION IS NOT  
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PAGE 02 LENDING 01091 150432Z

AVAILABLE ARE: GRIGORIY TEYTEL'BAUM, DMITRIY  
GORBUNOV, FNU KRAMER, AND FNU VERBITSKIY.

3. ONLY FOUR REFUSENIKS OBTAINED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE  
DURING THE SAME PERIOD: OLD REFUSENIK VIKTOR SAVITSKIY  
(JANUARY 1974) AND NEWER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BORIS  
LITVIN, ALEKSANDR ZAYEZDNIY, AND GRIGORIY SHESTAKOVSKIY.

4. THESE NEWEST DECISIONS BY OVIR BRING THE COMMUNITY UP TO A TOTAL OF 114 SURNAMES, AS HIGH AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE POST'S RECORD KEEPING BEGAN. THE NEW REFUSALS ADD AT LEAST 35 PERSONS TO THE COMMUNITY WHILE THE NEW CASES OF EXIT PERMISSION GRANTED REDUCE IT BY ONLY 7. SOURCE IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE NEWEST LISTING IS COMPLETE BECAUSE IT IS NOW OVIR PRACTICE ISSUE REFUSALS ON ANY WORK DAY THUS RENDERING MONITORING BY THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY MORE DIFFICULT. REASONS FOR THE NEW REFUSALS ARE THOSE USUALLY GIVEN: ARMY SERVICE OR NATURE OF WORK. IN ONE CASE, HOWEVER, THE REFUSAL WAS GIVEN BECAUSE OF AN APARTMENT EXCHANGE OPERATION AND IN ANOTHER BECAUSE OF REFUSAL OF A FATHER TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR CHILD TO EMIGRATE. THE BEST KNOWN OF THE NEW REFUSENIKS ARE MIKHAIL FURMAN AND HIS WIFE, THE PARENTS OF REFUSENIK ACTIVIST, LEV FURMAN. THE ELDER FURMAN, FORMER CP MEMBER AND WAR HERO WAS STRIPPED OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP AND JAILED LAST YEAR AS RESULT OF QUARREL WITH PARTY WORKERS OVER HIS SON'S ACTIVITIES.

5. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, POST HAS LEARNED THAT TRIAL OF ACCUSED ART SMUGGLERS IS NOW IN FOURTH WEEK AND THAT IN ADDITION TO THE TWO REFUSENIKS, BRAVIY AND BELOSTOTSKIY, AND OTHER UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS, TWO CUSTOMS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LENDING 01091 150432Z

OFFICERS FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH" ARE ALSO UNDER INDICTMENT.

6. COMMENT. OUR SOURCE INDICATES THAT THERE IS NO ACTUAL PERSECUTION OF THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HOWEVER, HE HAS THE CHARACTERISTIC TENDENCY HERE TO EXPECT THE WORST AND IS CONVINCED THAT THE ART SMUGGLING TRIAL WILL BE USED TO BLACKEN THE NAME OF THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. END COMMENT. RUECKERT

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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